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REPORT LANGUAGE TO ACCOMPANY THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT

S. 1291/H.R. 2742

COCHRAN AMENDMENT

TITLE VIII -- LIBRARY LEARNING CENTER PROGRAMS

Part B Library Literacy Centers

This section allows the Secretary to make grants to States on a competitive basis to establish library literacy centers. Each State applying for a grant will consult with the advisory committee established for this purpose and the State library administrative agency and will designate either the State library administrative agency or select through a competitive process a local public library to serve as the State library literacy center. Each State shall designate or select only one library literacy center and may make application on behalf of only that entity.

The purpose of the grant is to establish library literacy centers throughout the country to serve as resource centers for the dissemination of literacy materials and equipment to local public libraries in order to help overcome the high incidence of adults with limited literacy skills in the United States by

providing adults with nonthreatening opportunities to learn to read, either in the confines of the library or their home or other location and to help adults with limited literacy skills reach full employment through literacy learning experiences provided by a local public library. Funds received under this section may be used by the State to purchase literacy education equipment, library resource materials for literacy instruction purposes, literacy training materials and staffing for the coordination of the materials and equipment loan program and training of local library personnel on literacy services. Not more than 25 percent of the funds received by the State may be used to purchase computers ^{or} ~~of~~ computer software.

A State applying for a grant under this section must provide assurances that the library literacy center will select local public libraries to participate in a state-wide distribution program of literacy materials and equipment, with no less than 25 percent of the local public libraries ^{selected from} ~~in~~ rural areas and a priority to local public libraries within the State having the greatest need.

A State applying for a grant under this section must provide assurances that the library literacy center will coordinate a state-wide distribution program of literacy materials and equipment with local public libraries selected to participate in the program. In selecting local public libraries to participate, the library literacy center will solicit applications from local public libraries. Local public libraries applying will describe the manner in which the equipment and

materials will be used to initiate, expand, or improve local library literacy services including but not limited to a literacy loan program through which adults with limited literacy skills or individuals helping illiterate adults learn to read may borrow books, video tapes, and other learning materials and other innovative programs and policies designed to encourage greater use of the library by adults with limited literacy skills.

Among quality applications received by the Secretary, priority must be given to those States having the highest concentrations of adults who do not have a secondary education, having high illiteracy rates, and few community resources to establish a library literacy program without federal assistance or low average per capita income as compared to other States and high concentrations of unemployment or underemployment. The total grant amount awarded to each State shall not exceed \$350,000 in the first year and shall remain available until expended. States are eligible for two additional years of funding at not more than \$100,000, which must be matched dollar for dollar from non-federal sources.